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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-20 and 24-26 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended herein. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12-17, 19, 20 AND 24-26 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

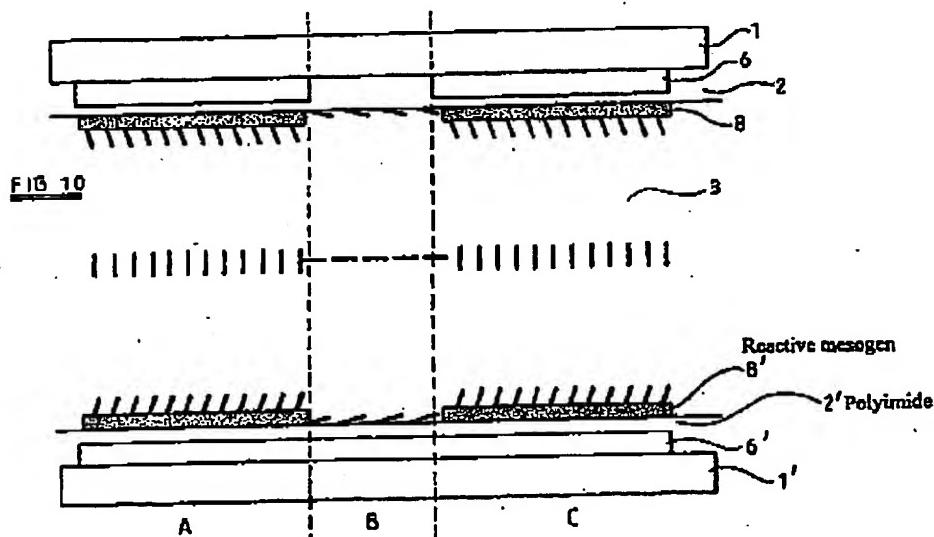
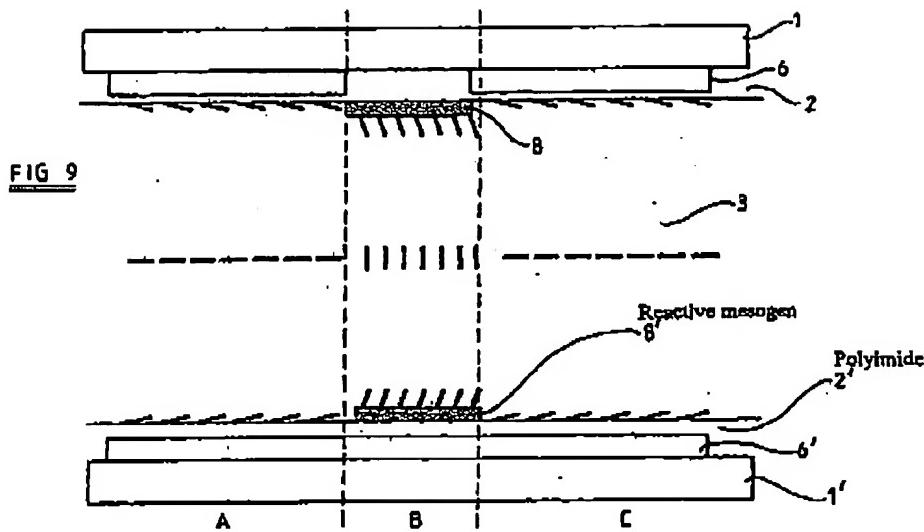
Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12-17, 19, 20 and 24-26 remain rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on *Acosta et al.* in view of *Funada et al.* Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the feature whereby the active region of each of the pixels partially overlaps with at least one of the protrusions. Support for such amendment is found, for example, at page 17, lines 17-20 of the present application. As is described in the application, such feature provides the advantage of allowing the applied field to be able to grow the desired state into the active region.

In responding to applicants' previous arguments filed on March 1, 2005, the Examiner points out that claim 1 previously referred to the pixel active regions containing, or overlapping with, or lying adjacent or close to, at least one of the protrusions so that nucleation occurs within the active region. The Examiner points out that Fig. 10 of *Acosta et al.* illustrates the purported protrusions 8, 8' in Fig. 10 as being within the active region of the pixels. Consequently, the Examiner concludes that Fig. 10 of *Acosta et al.* teaches the active regions which include or overlap with the protrusions. (O.A., p. 7).

However, amended claim 1 emphasizes that the active region of each pixel partially overlaps with at least one of the protrusions. *Acosta et al.* does not teach or suggest an arrangement in which the active region of each pixel partially overlaps with at least one of the protrusions as recited in amended claim 1.

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For example, Figs. 9 and 10 of Acosta et al. (reproduced above) clearly show the reactive mesogen layers 8, 8' being provided either within the inter-pixel regions or within the pixel regions, but not partially overlapping the pixel regions as now recited in amended claim 1. More specifically, Fig. 9 illustrates the embodiment where the reactive mesogen layers 8, 8' are provided strictly in the inter-pixel regions B. Fig. 10

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Illustrates the embodiment where the reactive mesogen layers 8, 8' are provided strictly in the pixel regions A and C. (See, e.g., [0083]).

Therefore, *Acosta et al.* does not teach or suggest the active region of each pixel partially overlapping with at least one of the protrusions, so that nucleation occurs as recited in amended claim 1. *Acosta et al.* may arguably teach either no overlapping or full overlapping, but *Acosta et al.* does not teach or suggest partially overlapping as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, *Funada et al.* does not teach or suggest an active region of each pixel partially overlapping at least one of the protrusions so that nucleation occurs within the active region. Thus, *Funada et al.* does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Acosta et al.*.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Moreover, the remaining claims each depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly and may be distinguished over the teachings of *Acosta et al.* and *Funada et al.* for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is also respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11 AND 18 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on *Acosta et al.* in view of *Funada et al.*, and further in view of *Ulrich et al.*. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 11 and 18 each depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and can be distinguished over *Acosta et al.* and *Funada et al.* for at least the same reasons. Moreover, *Ulrich et al.* does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Acosta et al.* and *Funada et al.*. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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III. CONCLUSION

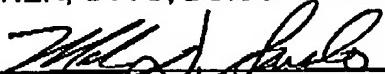
Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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